

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-02 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00

NSC-05 /092 W

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P R 231726Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0670

USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 12479

GENEVA PLEASE PASS SALT DELEGATION

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: FRG-FRENCH BILATERAL

1. FOREIGN OFFICE MBFR DIRECTOR RUTH BRIEFED CULLI-MORE OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY AND AN EMBASSY OFFICER ON HIS TRIP TO PARIS ON JULY 22 FOR WORKING-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS WITH MISTRAL. RUTH SAID THAT HE WAS FOLLOWING UP ON THE TRILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AT DIEZ WHERE IT WAS AGREED THAT AN ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO GIVE MORE FORMAL ASSURANCES TO THE FRENCH OF THE FLEXIBILITY WHICH THEIR FORCES STATIONED IN THE FRG WOULD ENJOY UNDER A COLLECTIVE COMMON CEILING.

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2. RUTH SAID THAT THE ATMOSPHERE WAS GOOD FOR THE

LENGTHY (3-4 HOURS) MEETING. RUTH UNDERLINED THE MERITS OF A COLLECTIVE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM AND TRIED TO SHOW THAT THE FRENCH WOULD NOT BE DRAWN INTO MBFR. IN GENERAL, HE REHEARSED THE WHOLE SERIES OF ARGUMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN DETAIL AT DIEZ. HIS INTENTION WAS TO SHOW THAT FRENCH FLEXIBILITY WAS POSSIBLE AND HE TRIED TO MAKE CLEAR THE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES IN THE FRENCH AND ALLIED APPROACHES. RUTH'S PRINCIPAL ARGUMENT WAS THAT THE COMMON CEILING WOULD HAVE NO NEGATIVE EFFECT ON FRENCH FLEXIBILITY. IN THIS CONNECTION HE RECALLED FOOTNOTE (1) TO C-M (73) 83 (FINAL).

3. RUTH SAID MISTRAL WAS VERY INTERESTED IN HIS PRESENTATION AND SAID HE WOULD INFORM HIS SUPERIORS OF THE DISCUSSION. MISTRAL CONTINUED THAT RUTH'S POINTS WOULD BE EXAMINED TOGETHER WITH OTHER ARGUMENTS. MISTRAL SAID HE COULD NOT RESPOND AT THIS TIME TO THOSE ARGUMENTS. MISTRAL THEN ATTEMPTED TO MAKE CLEAR FRENCH CONCERNS WITHIN THE OVERALL CONTEXT OF MBFR. MISTRAL'S MAIN POINTS WERE THE FOLLOWING:

-- THE FRENCH NEED TO MAINTAIN FLEXIBILITY FOR THEIR FORCES IN THE FRG;

-- FRENCH CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBLE LIMITATIONS AND REDUCTION OF EUROPEAN ARMAMENTS, WITH FRENCH SKEPTICISM ON THIS ISSUE INCREASED FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF OPTION III; AND

-- POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE FRENCH ONCE CONSTRAINTS AND VERIFICATION MEASURES ARE AGREED UPON.

4. WHILE THE BILATERAL DID NOT PRODUCE ANY IMMEDIATE RESULT, RUTH IS CONFIDENT THAT THE FRENCH ARE THINKING SERIOUSLY ABOUT THE VARIOUS ARGUMENTS

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0671

USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

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ADVANCED BY THE ALLIES. HE ALSO VOICED HIS PERSONAL BELIEF THAT THE FRENCH DO NOT WANT TO SABOTAGE THE TALKS SINCE THEY HAVE BECOME SO MUCH A PART OF THE EUROPEAN POLITICAL SCENE. RUTH IS ALSO ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT THE FRENCH ARE NOT SHYING AWAY FROM FURTHER CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS OF THEIR POSITION. HE SAID THAT HE AND MISTRAL AGREED TO MEET AGAIN AT THE END OF AUGUST FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.

5. RUTH SAID HE HAD VISITED THE HAGUE AND BRUSSELS ON JULY 21 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH MBFR OFFICIALS IN THE RESPECTIVE FOREIGN MINISTRIES. HE SAID THAT BOTH THE BELGIANS AND DUTCH HAD AGREED THAT THE FRENCH SHOULD NOT BE PRESSURED IN THE SPC ON THEIR POSITION. OFFICIALS
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IN BOTH CAPITALS AGREED THAT BILATERAL APPROACHES HELD THE BEST PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS NOW.

6. RUTH CONCLUDED THE BRIEFING BY NOTING THAT HE INTENDED TO GO TO BRUSSELS ON JULY 29 TO HEAR THE SALT BRIEFING IN PLACE OF AMBASSADOR ROTH WHO IS ON VACATION. CULLIMORE INDICATED THAT THOMSON WAS ALSO THINKING OF ATTENDING THE BRIEFING AND HOPED TO MEET WITH MISTRAL ON THE MARGINS OF THE MEETING. RUTH THEN PROPOSED THAT AMBASSADOR RESOR OR DEAN MIGHT ALSO WISH

TO COME TO BRUSSELS. RUTH SAID IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO
MEET FOR DINNER ON THE 28TH OR, IF THAT WERE NOT FEAS-
IBLE, TO MEET AT ONE OF THE EMBASSIES FOR A FURTHER
DISCUSSION OF THE FRENCH PROBLEM IN VIEW OF ITS IMPOR-
TANCE FOR THE ALLIANCE. ACTION REQUESTED: REACTION FROM
THE DELEGATION REGARDING RUTH'S INFORMAL SUGGESTION.
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